

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the application and submits that substantial care has been taken to avoid the introduction of any new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing amendment. In particular, Applicant has deleted claims 1-2 and added new claims 3-51. Applicant submits that the specification is replete with support for such claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-51 introduce no new matter and are otherwise proper.

In light of the cancellation of claims 1-2, as well as the addition of claims 3-51, Applicant respectfully submits that the total number of claims in the Application is now equal to 49, and that the total number of independent claims in the Application is now equal to 6. Accordingly, Applicant has enclosed PTO Form 2038 for fees identified thereon in the amount of \$774.00.

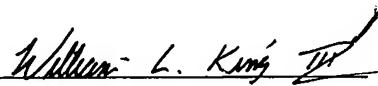
In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is in *prima facie* condition for allowance at the present time. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the present application and passage toward issuance thereof.

If any other charges or fees must be paid or credited in connection with this communication, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 50-2131.

Respectfully submitted,

KING & JOVANOVIC, PLC

Dated: 12/16/02


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